modernisation and expansion of the country's telecommunication system ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to modernise and expand the telecommunications services in the country by using all the available resources and participation of both the private and the public sector. While the public sector wilt continue to play a major role in die production of telecommunication equipment for modernisation and expansion ; keeping in view the large variety and quantities of equipment that will be required, it has been decided to liaberalise the policy with regard to manufacture and permit production of various types of terminal equipment, etc. used at the subscribers' premises in **the** private sector.

Centra! aid to Bhopal gas victims

135. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ : DR. H P. SHARMA :

Will of INDUSTRY leased to state :

(a) how much Central aid lias so Far been given for die relief of the victims of Bhopal gas leakage of December, 1984 ;

(b) what are tire details of the schemes wholly or Partially financed therewith ; and

(c) whether any instances of diversion of central funds to schemes other than relief schemes has come to Government's notice and if so, ' what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Government has so far given Rs. 40 crores to the State Government comprising Rs. 20 crores as medium term loan and Rs. 20 crores as ways and means advance for the relief operations. State Government is spending the money for providing relief and rehabilitation for the victims. These include providing ex-gratia relief and distribution of foodgrains, medical facilities, vocational training is well as suitable means of employment or self employment.

(c) Does not arise.

Maternity Leave to Women Employee of Telephone Department

136. SHRIMATI ILA BHAT-TACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whetiler it is a fact that the Director General of Posts.and Telegraphs has directed die General Managers of Telephones all over the country that they should not entertain maternity leave applications from any Woman employee who has not changed her name after marriage ;

(b) if so, what is the justifica-cation for such ah order ;

(c) whether the said order is based upon any Act or Government order ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) However, there was a case from Gujarat Circle when a Lady Telephone Operator applied for maternity leave though she was not married. It was decided in consultation with Department of Personnel and Training that maternity leave can not be granted to unmarried female Govt, servant.

Night Air Mail Service through Vayudoot

137. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a night air mail service is being 'planned through the Vayudoot; and

(b) if so, which cities are at present being connected for such night airmail service ?

THE MINISTER«OF ESTATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COM-MUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, • Sir.

(b) This will depend on the cities which will be covered by the Night Air Cargo Service proposed to be introduced by Vayudoot;

STD system with neighbouring countries

138. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to in troduce an intensive STD system with neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

c) which of the metropoiitan chits of the country now have STD facilities for connecting London and New York and which other cities arc likely to have these lities and by when ?

THE MINISTER OF SIATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COM MUNICATIONS (SHRI AM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The feasibility and accounting ' procedure, are under discussion with the counter-parts of the neighbouring countries.

(c) The 4 Metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras have International Sub scriber Dialling facilities with 6 foreign countries viz. United King dom, Australia, Japan, France. Singa pore and Hong Kong.

STD facility to New *York* is not available from an\ city &0 far**.**

It is proposed to extend gradually international subscriber dialling facility from all dries connected to National Trunk Automatic Exchange Newtwork. In the first phase the facility will be 1 from Hyderabad, Ahmed.xbad, Bangalore and Trivandrum in a year.

Post Offices in private premises

139, SHRI YALLA BHUSHANARAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION^ pleased to state :

(a) number of Post Office- in the country which are not housed in their own buildings, State-wise

(b) annual rent beining paid State-wise and total rem 30th September, 1985;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to construct their own buildings' lor the Post Offices to avoid payment of heavy rent ;